

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 7, 2004. Claims 28-31 and 33-36 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 28-31 and 33-36 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 28 and 33 have been amended. Claims 28-31 and 33-36 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 28-31 and 33-36 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

Title

A new title has been provided. The new title is believed to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed

§102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 28-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nagasawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,355).

Claims 33-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasawa in view of Yaegashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,453).

Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims (claims 28 and 33) are patentable over Nagasawa and Yaegashi.

Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a method for reproducing information representative of signals recorded on a recording medium. The recording medium is accommodated in a recording medium cartridge that includes a memory device separate from the medium, and the information is stored in the memory device. Each of the claims recites that "said information is organized into a hierarchical structure that includes at least a recording medium information branch and a recording content information

branch, said recording content information branch including at least two levels.” Supporting disclosure for Applicants’ recited data structure can be found in the specification at, for example, page 18, line 9 – page 19, line 21.

Neither Nagasawa nor Yaegashi discloses Applicants’ recited data structure. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claims 28 and 33 are patentable over Nagasawa and Yaegashi – taken either alone or in combination – on at least this basis.

Claims 29-31 depend on claim 28. Since claim 28 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 29-31 are believed to be patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependency on claim 28.

Claims 34-36 depend on claim 33. Since claim 33 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 34-36 are believed to be patentable over the cited references based at least on their dependency on claim 33.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicants’ undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner


specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
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